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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/691,716	10/22/2003	Mario Latronico	58009-017200	6855

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EXAMINER

TAWFIK, SAMEH

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3721

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/691,716

Applicant(s)

LATRONICO, MARIO

Examiner

Sameh H. Tawfik

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3 and 8-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4-7 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10222003</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: applicant can not refer to the claims on the specification; for example (specification, page 3, lines 24-26) "...in the main claim, for making..." and "The dependent claims..." are not proper.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

(claim 3, lines 2-5) "a device (19)...from the next." is vague and indefinite because it is not clear a device 19 is designed to cut the zip tape 15 or for separating packages 11; it is not clear what applicant is referring to by "without zip tap on them separating one package from the next" and if applicant able to separate the package by device 19, so would still jaws 33 able to separate the package 11 as described on claim 2.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Runge (5,247,781) in view of EP Rico (1,106,506).

Runge discloses a horizontal packaging machine for making packages equipped with zip closure (16 and 18), the machine comprising at least one unit for unwinding a film (20) of synthetic material for packaging a series of products (24); at least one unit (36) for unreeling a pair of tapes to form a zip closure (16 and 18); a shaping tunnel located downstream of the film unreeling unit (Fig. 4; via sealing apparatus 124); a sealing unit located downstream of the shaping tunnel (Fig. 4; via sealing bars 128). Runge does not disclose that downstream of the sealing unit comprises a power-driven film feed roller designed to apply a uniform pulling force on the film which is unwound and fed into the sealing unit. However, Rico discloses a similar packaging machine comprising a power-driven film feed roller designed to apply a uniform pulling force on the film which is unwound and fed into the sealing unit (Fig. 1; via rollers 18, 18b, 19, 19b, and 62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Runge's horizontal packaging machine by having a power-driven film feed roller positioned after sealing apparatus 124 and before sealing bars 128 to apply a uniform pulling force on the film, as suggested by Rico, in order to press on the longitudinal seals of the manufactured bags as it comes out of sealing apparatus 124.

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Regarding claim 3: Runge discloses a zip tape and package separating unit (Fig. 4; via knife 130).

Regarding claim 8: close to the unit (36) for unwinding the zip tape (16 and 18), a pair of unwinding rollers (Fig. 1; via guide rollers 40, 44, 46, 48, and 49). Runge does not disclose that rollers for unwinding are driven by a servomotor. However, Rico discloses rollers (18, 18b, 19, 19b) for unwinding are driven by a servomotor (62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Runge's horizontal packaging machine by replacing rollers (40, 44, 46, 48, and 49) by rollers driven by servomotor, as suggested by Rico, in order to easily pulling out the closures 16 and 18 out of the zipper stock 36.

Regarding claim 9: Runge does not disclose downstream of the power-driven roller a device for collecting and feeding out the packages. However, it is inherent that Runge's packaging apparatus have a collecting or stacking station by the end of the manufacture line.

Regarding claim 9: Runge does not disclose that two process lines placed side by side. However, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Runge's packaging machine by having two process lines placed side by side, since it has been held that mere duplication of the essential working parts of a device involves only routine skill in the art. *St. Regis Paper Co. v. Bemis Co.*, 193 USPQ 8. in order to have more manufactured bags in shorter time.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2 and 4-7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Forman 6523325, Zieke 5047002, and James 3274746 disclose different packaging apparatus.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sameh H. Tawfik whose telephone number is (703) 308-2809. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday - Friday from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rinaldi Rada can be reached on (703) 308-2187. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sameh H. Tawfik
Patent Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

ST.